

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF FISHERIES REHABILITATION,
ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT (FRED)

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
PHONE: (907) 465-4160

January 21, 1986

RECEIVED
FEB 5 1986

Mr. Pete Esquiro
Northern Southeast Aquaculture Association
103 Monastery
Sitka, Alaska 99835

ADFG - Sitka

Dear Pete:

Lest there be some confusion, I decided to follow up our conversation on the subject of Redoubt Lake with this brief letter.

The Redoubt Lake project is at a crossroads. Simply put, natural recruitment of sockeye juveniles to the lake is woefully inadequate to take advantage of the improved rearing habitat produced by fertilization. Too few adults escape to the lake, and this is not going to change. This leads me to conclude that unless hatchery fish are obtained for stocking into the lake, there is no need to continue the Redoubt Lake project.

Since sockeye fry are not available from any nearby hatchery, I am led to consider chinook or coho as an alternative for planting into the lake. Of these two options, I lean toward chinook but only because of the current pressing need for additional production of this species and not because it offers, at this stage of the analysis, any particular advantage over coho. There may or may not be risk from IHN virus associated with planting chinook into Redoubt. If it makes any difference, Andrews Creek chinook (the brood source for both Medvijie and Hidden Falls Hatcheries) in all probability coevolved with sockeye. Further, Redoubt Lake has a zooplankton composition that precludes the establishment of worm parasites in juvenile fish. Lastly, I have heard it remarked in the context of proposals for chinook mitigation as regards the U.S./Canada treaty, that Sitka Sound would be a good terminal harvest area for chinook produced from Medvijie. Would not the same apply for chinook from Redoubt?

Mr. Pete Esquiro

-2-

January 21, 1986

The suggestion to plant chinook into Redoubt has already reached the proposal stage within FRED Division (proposal enclosed). With this communication to you I hope to produce further discussion on the subject. The next step is for Dave Barto to "cut" Fish Transport Requests to fulfill the need for chinook juveniles. I do not mean to oversimplify; all cooperators need to be identified and a project plan written. We do need to move quickly. Fertilization would continue to be a part of the project.

I look forward to learning your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Burkett

cc: Harold Heinkel
Phil Janik
Jeffrey Koenings

Enclosure

RB/hjd